

**COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
MEETING  
Tuesday, September 23, 2014**

**Present:** Commissioner President Francis Jack Russell  
Commissioner Lawrence D. Jarboe  
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan  
Commissioner Cynthia L. Jones  
Commissioner Daniel L. Morris  
County Administrator, Dr. Rebecca Bridgett  
Sharon Ferris (Recorder)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner President Russell called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:00 am in the Chesapeake Building meeting room, Governmental Center.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve the minutes of September 16, 2014, as presented. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Morris abstained.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

1. Draft Agendas for September 30 and October 7, 2014.
2. **Department of Aging and Human Services** (*Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Peggy Maio, Fiscal Supervisor*)

*(Karen Abrams, Circuit Court Judge, Matt Reisdorph, Prevention and Treatment Coordinator, Dept. of Aging and Human Services)*

**a. FY2015 ADAA Drug Court Treatment Residential Services Sub-recipient Agreement**

---

Judge Abrams requested that the court have the flexibility to place patients dealing with drug and alcohol addiction in a facility of the court's choice. She complimented Walden on the services they provide and then cited two recent incidents where individuals needed placement in a certain level of inpatient treatment and Walden had no beds available at the level of treatment needed. They were eventually placed in Walden but at a lower level of treatment. She noted there are facilities in Calvert and Charles County that can provide inpatient

treatment and the court would like to have the flexibility of using other sources if Walden is not available.

Mr. Reisdorph noted that prior to grant approval you have to designate the service provider to the state. If the funding leaves the county then quarterly monitoring is required which will cost more. Discussions then centered on the process and if this grant could be amended in the FY15 budget already established.

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Sub-recipient Agreement related to Project MD1597 between the County and Walden Sierra, Inc. for funding Drug Court Treatment Residential Services through the previously approved FY15 Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ADA Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services Grant. Motion carried 5-0.**

**b. Maryland Dept. of Aging FY2015 Area Plan Update Application**

**Commissioner Morris moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the FY2015 Application/Area Plan Update for the Federal Title III grants, Projects US1502, 1504, 1505, 1508, 1509, and 1533 from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services for various programs and services to be provided to the seniors of St. Mary's County in the amount of \$402,179. Motion carried 5-0.**

**c. Notification of Grant Award for FY2015 State Grants and related BA**

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute:**  
**(1) the Notification of Grant Award for the FY2015 State Grants, Projects MD1501 through 1504, 1506, and 1514 from the Maryland Department of Aging on behalf of the St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services for programs and services for the seniors of St. Mary's County in the amount of \$199,997; and,**  
**(2) the budget amendments that include increasing the grant funds by \$865 net and reducing the County funding by \$787 net to bring the budget in accordance with the NGA and program needs. Motion carried 5-0.**

**3. Department of Public Works and Transportation (*George Erichsen, Director*)**

*(Matt Scassero, Director; Tony Pucciarella, Director for Operations and Business Development, UMDA UAS Test Site)*

**Lease for Occupation of Space at St. Mary's County Regional Airport**

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the Lease for Occupation of Space at St. Mary's County Regional Airport between the County and the University of Maryland. Motion carried 5-0.**

**4. Department of Economic Development** (*Robin Finnacom, Acting Director*)

(*Sandra Diaz and Dan Dougherty, Patuxent Habitat for Humanity*)

**Impact Fee Waiver for Patuxent Habitat for Humanity**

---

*Patuxent Habitat has 5 more lots to build on in this area. Commissioner Morgan said he had received complaints from residents about the road conditions going into the area and asked if Habitat for Humanity had considered a road maintenance agreement with the homeowners because the road is not a County road. Mr. Dougherty said he would follow up on this.*

**Commissioner Morgan moved, seconded by Commissioner Jarboe, to approve and sign the Letter to Patuxent Habitat for Humanity for an Impact Fee Waiver request for a property located at 21726 Loudon Lane in Lexington Park, Maryland and approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to sign the related budget amendment. Motion carried 5-0.**

**5. Department of Recreation and Parks** (*Brian Loewe, Director; David Guyther, Parks Mgr.*)

**Forest Conservation Easement for Chaptico Park**

---

**Commissioner Jones moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve and authorize Commissioner President Russell to execute the forest conservation easement for Chaptico Park and direct staff to record the document in the land records of St. Mary's County. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Morgan was out of the room.**

**6. St. Mary's County Public Schools** (*Scott Smith, Interim Superintendent of Schools and Operations; Mr. Brad Clements, Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Operations; Tammy McCourt Assistant Superintendent of Fiscal Services and Human Resources*)

**SMCPS Final FY14 Budget and Categorical Requests**

---

Ms. McCourt provided a summary of items that contributed to the shortfall in the school systems budget and the initiatives undertaken within their own budget to alleviate the shortfall.

*Commissioner Morgan expressed his concern that to alleviate the school budget shortfall, \$1.5M comes out of teacher salaries, textbooks and supplies. He noted he is against the teachers and classrooms always taking the hit.*

*Commissioner Jones asked if the Agricultural program began at the Tech Center in September. Mr. James Raley, President of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau, addressed the Commissioners stating that he sent a letter to the Board of Education with a copy to the St. Mary's County Superintendent of Schools and Commissioners of St. Mary's County concerning the need to reinstate Ag Education in the school system. He said the Board of County Commissioners approved funding in the FY15 operating budget for the program and he understood that the school system was also awarded a Perkins Reserve Grant for programmatic expenses, and, to his knowledge, nothing was started in September. He noted from an economic development and agriculture tourism perspective there is a need in public schools to have young men and women in this type of program. Mr. Clements acknowledged this program had not started and the new interim Superintendent said he had not seen the letter as yet.*

*Commissioner Morris stated there was a misconception being projected to the community that St. Mary's County Public Schools are the lowest county-funded in the state and the use of "budget cuts" when referring to County funding. He clarified St. Mary's County is not the lowest-funded and that the County funded beyond the maintenance of effort required by the state, and the Commissioners did not "cut" the school budget.*

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Morris, to approve the FY2014 Budget Amendment as requested by the Board of Education, as follows:**

**Increases to Revenues of \$1,104,534 and Fund Balance of \$2,759,466, for a combined increase of \$3,864,000, detailed as follows:**

<b>SMCPS fund Balance - due to shortfall (recurring expenses)</b>	<b>1,759,466</b>
<b>SMCPS - committed fund balance, healthcare reserve</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
<b>Rent of Facilities</b>	<b>77,000</b>
<b>Field Trips</b>	<b>70,000</b>
<b>Insurance Refunds</b>	<b>594,790</b>
<b>Interfund Transfers</b>	<b>55,000</b>
<b>State Sources</b>	
<b>Quality Teacher Incentive</b>	<b>76,500</b>
<b>NTBS Certification</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Federal Sources</b>	
<b>Dept. of Defense</b>	<b>81,363</b>
<b>Impact Aid</b>	<b>139,881</b>

**Decreases to Expenditures for the Following Categories, totaling \$2,239,000,**

**detailed as follows:**

<b>Mid-level</b>	
<b>Administration</b>	<b>(306,000)</b>
<b>Instructional Salaries</b>	<b>(531,000)</b>
<b>Textbooks &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>(621,000)</b>
<b>Student Services</b>	<b>(44,000)</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>(253,000)</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>(441,000)</b>
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	<b>(43,000)</b>

**And, increases to Expenditures for the following 6 categories to cover over expenditures, totaling \$6,103,000, detailed as follows:**

<b>Admin</b>	<b>155,000</b>
<b>Other Instructional Costs</b>	<b>99,000</b>
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>166,000</b>
<b>Health Services</b>	<b>38,000</b>
<b>Operation of Plant</b>	<b>364,000</b>
<b>Fixed Charges</b>	<b>5,281,000</b>

**Motion carried 4-1.** *Commissioner Morgan voted nay.*

#### **ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: FY 2016-2021 STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)**

**Present:** J. Scott Smith, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Brad Clements, Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Operations  
Kimberly Howe, Director of Capital Planning and Green Schools

Ms. Howe provided a slide presentation depicting elements, such as residential growth and birthrates, which attribute to the projection of future school needs. She reviewed Elementary, Middle, and High School needs comparing state versus local capacity. She discussed short-term and long-term capacity needs based on ten-year enrollment projections. The top two priorities of the FY16 CIP are the completion of the Spring Ridge Middle School renovations and the Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School. She also explained the impact state funding reductions will have on future construction costs.

**Commissioner Jarboe moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones, to sign the letter of support for the FY2016-FY2021 State Capital Improvements Program as approved by the Board of Education on September 10, 2014, to be submitted to the Public School Construction Program in accordance with state procedures. Motion carried 5-0.**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON REVISION OF THE CODE OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY,  
MARYLAND (PHASE 1)**

Commissioner Russell Opened the public hearing at 10:59 am.

**Present:** George Sparling, County Attorney

Mr. Sparling presented a Certification of Publication for the record. Notice of public hearing was posted in the Enterprise Newspaper on September 5 and 14, 2014. The proposed revision consists of obsolete, redundant and legally inconsistent local laws and ordinances.

Commissioner Russell opened the hearing for public comment. There were no public comments. Commissioner Russell stated the record would be left open for an additional ten days to receive public comments on this matter and closed the public hearing at 11:02 am.

**COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

The Commissioners highlighted events of the past.

*Commissioner Jarboe reminded Commissioners of the request from Judge Abrams to provide the courts flexibility to place individuals in need of inpatient drug and alcohol treatment into another facility if there are no beds available at Walden Sierra for the type of service they need. He suggested the Commissioners start the process for future needs.*

**STATE OF THE COUNTY LUNCHEON**

The Commissioners departed to participate in the State of the County Luncheon at the Elks Fidelity Hall, 45779 Fire Dept. Lane California, Maryland.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Minutes Approved by the Board of County Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon Ferris, Senior Administrative Coordinator (Recorder)